

# HOWNĪKAN

## PEOPLE OF THE FIRE

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Citizen Band Potawatomi Tribe

June, 1986

## Come to the Council!

The annual General Council meeting of the Citizen Band Potawatomi Tribe will be called to order at 7 a.m. on Saturday, June 28, 1986. The meeting, to be held in the "long room" of the administration building, will be immediately recessed and the voting polls will open. Tribal members who have not requested an absentee ballot will be permitted to vote up until 2 p.m.

Issues to be determined by this year's ballot include a proposed budget for expenditure of set-aside funds interest money and

confirmation or rejection of the Potawatomi Court Judges appointed by the Tribal Business Committee.

The general meeting will be reconvened at 3 p.m. Tribal Chairman John Barrett will be presenting this year's progress report and tribal attorney Michael Minnis is expected to give an update on litigation involving the tribe.

All tribal members attending the Council are encouraged to share in the traditional free meal offered at the pow wow grounds at 5 p.m.



## OU Council?

(see page 3)



## Our elders - Potawatomi National Treasures

The Potawatomi people have always honored and revered their tribal elders - those who have gone ahead and cleared the way for the generations to follow. Ozetta Peltier (born Feb. 18, 1894) and Edith O'Bright (born Jan. 8,

1894) are two of this tribal nation's treasures. This picture was taken at a recent Pottawatomie Intertribal Pow Wow Club pow wow and we hope to see them at this month's annual General Council and Pow Wow. Why not

share your family's treasures with the rest of the Potawatomi people? Drop a line and a photograph to the HowNiKan, Rt. 5, Box 151, Shawnee, Ok. 74801.



## Haskell bill dropped

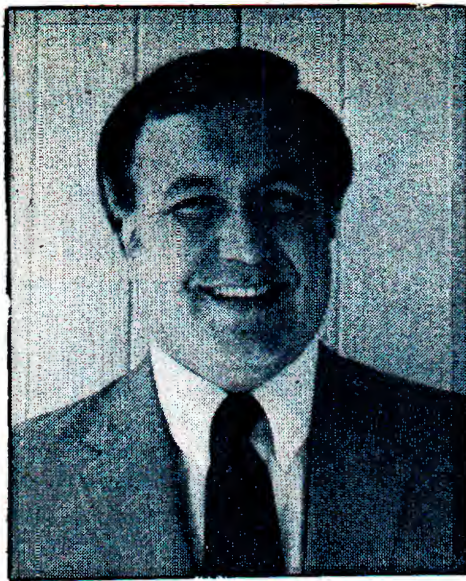
A legislative proposal to make Haskell Indian Junior College in Lawrence, Kansas independent of the Bureau of Indian Affairs and under control of the Board of Regents has been dropped, according to Congressman Jim Slattery of Kansas.

According to Slattery, the proposal will not be pursued until there is a consensus among Indian people that that is what they want.

Slattery said he had introduced the bill removing Haskell from BIA supervision at the request of the Haskell regents. Indian students and leaders across the country - including the Citizen Band Potawatomi Tribe - had opposed such a move, fearing loss of federal funding for the school.

A Kansas state legislative proposal to open Haskell to non-Indian students from the state for vo-tech training in exchange for state funding added to the opposition to changing the 100 year-old Indian school. Following a protest meeting in Lawrence of faculty, students and others opposed to both bills, Kansas State Senator Wint Winter sent a letter to the Haskell newspaper stating that his bill was dead and he will not pursue any related legislation unless it has the widespread support of "all constituencies at Haskell."





### Fellow Tribal Members,

The first full year of my service to you as Chairman is nearly complete. I hope the progress we have made as a tribe and the methods we have adopted as a government are what you wanted when you elected me. As you may know already, I have a personal business which places great demands on my time. Without the dedicated efforts of the other members of the Business Committee I would not have been able to get the job done to your expectations or mine.

This Business Committee year has seen a number of "firsts." The first Regional Councils were held in Denver, Chicago, Houston, Fort Worth, Wichita, Long Beach and Kansas City. Regional groups of tribal members have begun to meet independently in Colorado, Texas and California. We will hold more meetings in Washington/Oregon, Arizona and Northern California. At each meeting new family was reunited, old bonds re-established and firm friendships were begun. The excitement and joy of sharing

## A letter from your Chairman

the experience with you of discovering your roots, your history, language and culture was a gift from you to us for which we will always be grateful.

This year has been the first for our tribe to have legal and political representation in Washington, D.C. With the retention of Michael Minnis of Pierson, Ball & Dowd, and Ben Cotten of Cotten, Day & Doyle, we are represented by two very influential and prestigious firms. With the growth of the tribe comes the responsibility of protecting its interests in a time when challenges to our very existence come every day. As one of the 15 largest tribes in the country, we are obligated to do our part for all Indian people to protect our identity as sovereign governments — governments that have special mention in the U.S. Constitution, governments with which the U.S. Congress has treated, governments older than the history books record. Our grandfathers were selecting leaders and uniting for a common goal before the birth of Christ. We have survived as a people with their own language, art, customs and culture. We owe the spirits of our forefathers an obligation to continue to gether, to teach our children who they are and where they came from. In order to do this, we must do what

Potawatomi have always done, select the best of the new ways for our use, but keep the best of our old ways for strength.

One of the new ways that we have seen this year is the full implementation of our IBM System 36 computer. All tribal books are now in the computer and tribal rolls and historical data are being entered. If you want information about the tribe or your family, the speed of our response has greatly improved and will continue to. Because we have involved the Business Committee on a full time basis for three members — Dr. Francis Levier is the Tribal Administrator and Kenneth Peltier and Doyle Owens monitor accounting and tribal enterprise — the decision making process for the entire Business Committee has been greatly enhanced. Bob Davis and I run our own businesses and having the perspective of the other three members to weigh against our own impressions has been a key factor in Business Committee accomplishments. The tribe is earning a profit in each of our businesses; the first time in many years. With a tribal and federal cash flow of over \$5 million per year, we can anticipate the growth of services to every tribal member in the country.

The new court system and Potawatomi Tribal Codes and Ordinances have finally given us a basis of law under which we can operate. The scandals which have occurred in our past could have been prevented if we had possessed the two elements we have now — tribal law and full, nationwide tribal voting on all Council issues. Crooks can only work in the dark — the dark of no tribal newspaper; the dark of no tribal voting power; the dark of no tribal law.

We face many challenges in the coming year. We have three major lawsuits which burden us. The first is a suit in Oklahoma courts brought by former tribal officials impeached by the General Council or fired for wrong-doing. Under the guise of a libel suit, they seek to re-try the impeachment in state courts. Their attorney, Oklahoma legislator Steve Lewis, has delayed the suit since 1983 with "legislative continuances," at great legal expense to the tribe. The tribe has filed in federal court to remove the issue from the Oklahoma court which has a Constitutional prohibition against jurisdiction over Indian tribes. We also face a suit in federal court which we were forced to bring because of new Bureau of Indian Affairs regulations about bingo. The original bingo contract, which was created by the impeached or fired former tribal officials, is no longer legal. It never was in its entirety. During my tenure as Tribal Administrator, I tried to remove the existing bingo contractors. They presently bring in nearly \$1 million dollars per month. The Potawatomi share is about \$40 thousand. The BIA has declared that all bingo contracts and contractors must meet special conditions. Ours does not and never has. We told the bingo contractors to leave the tribal grounds and give us our money back. They refused to leave and we sued them in federal court. Millions of dollars of money rightfully belonging to the tribe is at stake. We will persevere and win because the real issue is whether we have a legal right to regulate our own territory under the law. The U.S. Supreme Court has given us that right but we must fight the battle again against these men who have enriched themselves at our expense and against the state which seeks to tax us out of existence.

(continued page 3)

## HOWNIKAN

PEOPLE OF THE FIRE

The *HowNiKan* is a publication of the Citizen Band Potawatomi Tribe, with offices located at 1900 Gordon Cooper Drive, Shawnee, Oklahoma.

The purpose of the *HowNiKan* is to act as the official publication of the Citizen Band Potawatomi Tribe and to meet the needs of its members for the dissemination of information.

The *HowNiKan* is mailed free to all enrolled Citizen Band tribal members, with subscriptions available to non-members at the rate of \$6 annually.

The *HowNiKan* is a member of the Native American Press Association. Reprint permission is granted with credit to the *HowNiKan* or the Citizen Band Potawatomi Tribe.

All editorials and letters become the property of the *HowNiKan*. Submissions for publication must be signed by the author and include a traceable address. Publication is at the discretion of the *HowNiKan* editor and the Citizen Band Potawatomi Business Committee.

Change of address or address corrections should be mailed to Rt. 5, Box 151, Shawnee, Oklahoma 74801.

### Citizen Band Potawatomi Business Committee

Chairman — John "Rocky" Barrett  
Vice Chairman — Doyle Owens  
Secretary/Treasurer — Kenneth Peltier  
Committeeman — Dr. Francis Levier  
Committeeman — Bob F. Davis

*HowNiKan* Editor  
Patricia Sulcer

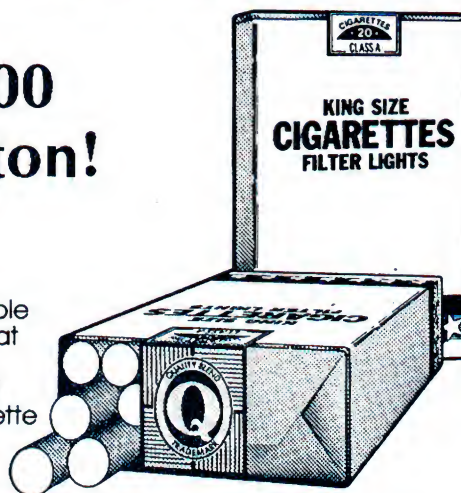


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## Barrett to be featured guest

Citizen Band Potawatomi Tribal Chairman John Barrett will be a guest on the Native America Today show on Sunday, June 29. The show airs at 10 a.m. on the Oklahoma City ABC TV affiliate, channel 5.



## Judicial appointees for confirmation

## And the nominees are . . .

**Jess Burris**

Jess Burris holds a Bachelor of Arts degree in English from the University of Oklahoma, a Master of Business Administration from O.U. and a law degree from the Oklahoma City University. He currently practices law in Norman, Oklahoma with the firm of Indian Legal Resources. He has served as program manager and project director for the American Indian Nurses Association and is a member of the Osage Tribe.

**Marvin Stepson**

Marvin E. Stepson, of Osage descent, lives and practices law in Norman, Oklahoma. Stepson holds a Bachelor's degree from Central State University and received his law degree in 1971 from the University of New Mexico. He has served as coordinator of The Tribal Government Institute (a seven month series of seminars for Oklahoma tribes); coordinator of the Oklahoma Indian Police Academy; prosecutor for the Court of Indian Offenses, Anadarko Area Office; election board magistrate for the Ponca Tribe and as a member of the Supreme Court of the Sac and Fox Tribe of Oklahoma.

**Gary Pitchlynn**

Gary Pitchlynn, an alumni of the University of Oklahoma, lives and practices law in Norman, Oklahoma. He has served as counsel to the American Indian Management Institute in Albuquerque, New Mexico, as consultant to the Oklahoma Indian Legal Services Corporation and worked under contract with the Oklahoma Indian Affairs Commission. His current memberships include: Oklahoma County Bar Association, Cleveland County Bar Association, Oklahoma State and the American Bar Associations, Court of Indian Appeals Bar Association, the Oklahoma and American Trial Lawyers Associations and the Court of Indian Appeals Bar Association.

**Lawrence Wahpepah**

Lawrence Wahpepah, a full-blooded Kickapoo, was born in McLoud, Oklahoma, the son of the late Frank Wahpepah, Sr. and the late Mary Wahpekiche. He is a graduate of the Dale school system and retired from the U.S. Navy. He retired in 1976 from Tinker Air Force Base after 34 years of service.

Mr. Wahpepah has attended St. Gregory's College and Oklahoma State University; served on the Absentee Shawnee Housing Authority and was the first and only Native American mayor of McLoud. He served as a CFR Court judge for two years and currently serves as a Sac and Fox Tribal Judge.

**Philip Lujan**

Philip Lujan, a native of Lawton, Oklahoma, is an enrolled member of the Kiowa Tribe. He received his law degree from the University of New Mexico Law School and has attended Northern Arizona University, the University of Oklahoma, Washburn University and the University of Colorado. Past experience in the field of Indian law include serving as a research assistant for the American Indian Law Center, field researcher for the Department of Interior, legal research assistant to the All Indian Pueblo Council, staff attorney for the Native American Legal Defense and Education Fund and staff attorney for the American Indian Law Center.

Mr. Lujan is currently director of the Native American Studies Program, as well as an assistant professor in the communication department at the University of Oklahoma. He has served as prosecutor for the Court of Indian Offenses (CFR) as well as judge.

**Almon Henson**

Almon Henson received his law degree from the University of Oklahoma and currently practices in Shawnee, Oklahoma. Mr. Henson was elected County Attorney in 1950 and is a past president of the Oklahoma Association of County Attorneys. He is a member of the American, Oklahoma and Pottawatomie County Bar Associations, as well as past president of the County Bar Association.

**Peggy Nelson Big Eagle**

Peggy Nelson Big Eagle, a member of the Sac and Fox Tribe, lives and practices law in Oklahoma City. She has a Bachelor's degree in English and a Master's in Public Administration from the University of Oklahoma, attended Oklahoma City University Law School and received her J.D. from Catholic University Law School in Washington, D.C.

In 1982-83 she worked as a law clerk for New Mexico Supreme Court Justice William R. Federici. While serving as an intern she worked for the Department of Justice Criminal Fraud Division in Washington, D.C. and for Columbus Community Legal Services, also in Washington. She has had her own general law practice in Oklahoma City since 1984.

**Rex Thompson**

Rex Thompson, a native of Temple, Oklahoma, attended college at Oklahoma University, Oklahoma State University, Cameron University and Texas Tech. After receiving his law degree in 1966 from Oklahoma City

University, he served as Assistant District Attorney in the Duncan and Shawnee Districts; served as District Attorney at Waurika, Ok and as City Judge for McLoud, Ok. He is currently the City Judge at Tecumseh, Ok. and has served as the Shawnee City prosecutor since 1972.

**Bill Rice**

G. William Rice, currently with the lawfirm of Pipestem and Rice in Norman, Oklahoma, holds a Bachelor's degree in Chemistry from Phillips University, attended the Master's program at Lowell Technological Institute and received his law degree in 1978 from the University of Oklahoma.

Rice, a Cherokee/Pawnee Indian, serves as general or special counsel for several Indian tribes. Prior experience includes serving as the First President and Executive Director of the Bar Association of the Anadarko Area Office Court of Indian Offenses; first Assistant Prosecutor for the Anadarko Area Office and consultant to the Oklahoma Indian Affairs Commission. Rice is also a former faculty member of Antioch School of Law Institute for Law and Justice. He is the author of numerous publications on Indian law and is a former editor of the American Indian Law Review.

**Browning Pipestem**

F. Browning Pipestem, of Otoe-Missouia/Osage descent, lives and practices law in Norman, Oklahoma. His educational background includes attendance at Northwestern Oklahoma State College, George Washington University, School of Mortgage Banking (Stanford) and a law

OFFICIAL BALLOT CITIZEN BAND POTAWATOMI TRIBE CANDIDATES Tribal Election — June 28, 1986	
Attention Voter: Detach this stub in the presence of an Election Commission member before depositing ballots in the ballot box.	No.
OFFICIAL BALLOT CITIZEN BAND POTAWATOMI TRIBE CANDIDATES Tribal Election — June 28, 1986	
VICE - CHAIRMAN	
<input type="checkbox"/> Doyle Owens — "Unopposed"	
SECRETARY - TREASURER	
<input type="checkbox"/> Kenneth E. ... — "Unopposed"	
SUPREME COURT JUSTICES To Be Confirmed	
Chief Justice William Rice, Attorney	YES NO <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>
Justice F. Browning Pipestem, Attorney	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>
Justice Marvin Stepson, Attorney	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>
Justice Rex Thompson, Attorney	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>
Justice Peggy Big Eagle, Attorney	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>
Justice Almon Henson, Attorney	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>
Justice Gary Pitchlynn, Attorney	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>
DISTRICT COURT JUDGES To Be Confirmed	
Chief Judge Phil Lujan	YES NO <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>
Judge Lawrence Wahpepah	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>
Judge Jess Burris	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>

degree from the University of Oklahoma. He has worked for the Native American Rights Fund, the Bureau of Indian Affairs in Washington, D.C., the Office of Program Development for the Navajo Nation and American Indian Consultants, Inc. Pipestem has taught law at Antioch School of Law and currently teaches law at the University of Oklahoma. He has served as Chief Magistrate of the Court of Indian Offenses, Anadarko Area Office and currently serves as Appellate Judge for the Hualapai Tribe of Arizona and as Appellate Judge for the Uintah-Ouray Ute Tribe in Utah.

Cover  
story

(from page one)

In the early 1900's the University of Oklahoma established an Indian Club with the purpose of "Perpetuating our tribal traditions and ceremonies, establishing brotherly friendship among ourselves and with our fellow students, and adopting any policy that may advance our race in these United States." Pictured here is the 1936 "Sequoyah Executive Council." Citizen Band Potawatomi Raymond Melot appears in the top row, fourth from the left. Our thanks to Clarice Melot for permission to reproduce this picture.

Chairman  
(from page 2)

Your prayers are asked for our people. Your votes are asked for this June to confirm the appointment of our new judges. For those 4,000 of us who live in Oklahoma, consider your voting power in Oklahoma State elections. We have officials who do not believe Indian tribes are even governments or should have the sovereign powers necessary to any legal government. State Attorney General Mike Turpen, now running for Governor, and State Representative Steve Lewis are a threat to our tribe. Please vote them out. If you do not live in Oklahoma, question your state and local officials about Indian issues and use the power of your vote to support those who support us.

*John Bant*



# For the record . . .

**May 12, 1986**

**PRESENT:** John Barrett, Doyle Owens, Kenneth Peltier, Bob Davis, Francis Levier, Pat Sulcer, Girarda Kelsey, Lori Bowlan

Chairman John Barrett called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m.

Doyle Owens and Kenneth Peltier will be conducting a review of all minutes and adopted resolutions and codifying them for easier reference.

The minutes of April 21, 1986 were read. Bob Davis moved to approve; Francis Levier seconded. Motion passed 5-0.

Francis Levier reported that he has requested an official ruling on the new Title VI regulations prohibiting non-Indian participants in the elderly feeding program.

Meeting recessed at 8:03 p.m.

Meeting reconvened at 8:05 p.m.

Tribal Rolls Director Lori Bowlan submitted Pot. Resolution86-234 approving two qualified applicants for tribal enrollment. Doyle Owens moved approval; Francis Levier seconded. Motion passed 5-0.

Minutes were read from May 11, 1986 meeting. Francis Levier moved approval; Kenneth Peltier seconded. Motion passed 5-0.

Enterprise and Program budget reviews were conducted with the assistance of Girarda Kelsey, computer programmer.

A letter from Central Tribes of the Shawnee Area (CTSA), Absentee Shawnee Governor Dan Little Axe and refusing participation in the Potawatomi Jobs Training Partnership Program (JTPA) was read. Little Axe is refusing to let CTSA tribal youths participate in the Potawatomi program because of a previous dispute that resulted in the Department of Labor's ruling in the Potawatomi's favor. Business Committee consensus was to send a copy of Little Axe's letter, the previous Department of Labor

ruling and the Potawatomi Tribe's letter offering summer employment to CTSA tribal youth (Kickapoo, Iowa, Sac and Fox and Absentee Shawnee) to the other tribal chairmen, as well as to all members of the CTSA Board of Directors. The Potawatomi Tribe's position on Little Axe's allegation that we owe CTSA money is that the alleged figure owed is simply a CTSA bookkeeping entry and was not funding disallowed by the Dept. of Labor. The Tribe is also willing to take responsibility for a CTSA \$3,000 audit exception and has offered to repay portions of the amount to the Kickapoo and Iowa tribes. John Barrett moved to send letters offering JTPA participation to the Kickapoo and Iowa tribes and also offering to split the \$3,000 audit exception. Doyle Owens seconded; passed 5-0.

Bob Davis moved to approve Pot. Resolution86-235 appointing the judges of the Potawatomi Tribal Court, to be confirmed by referendum vote in June. Francis Levier seconded; passed 5-0.

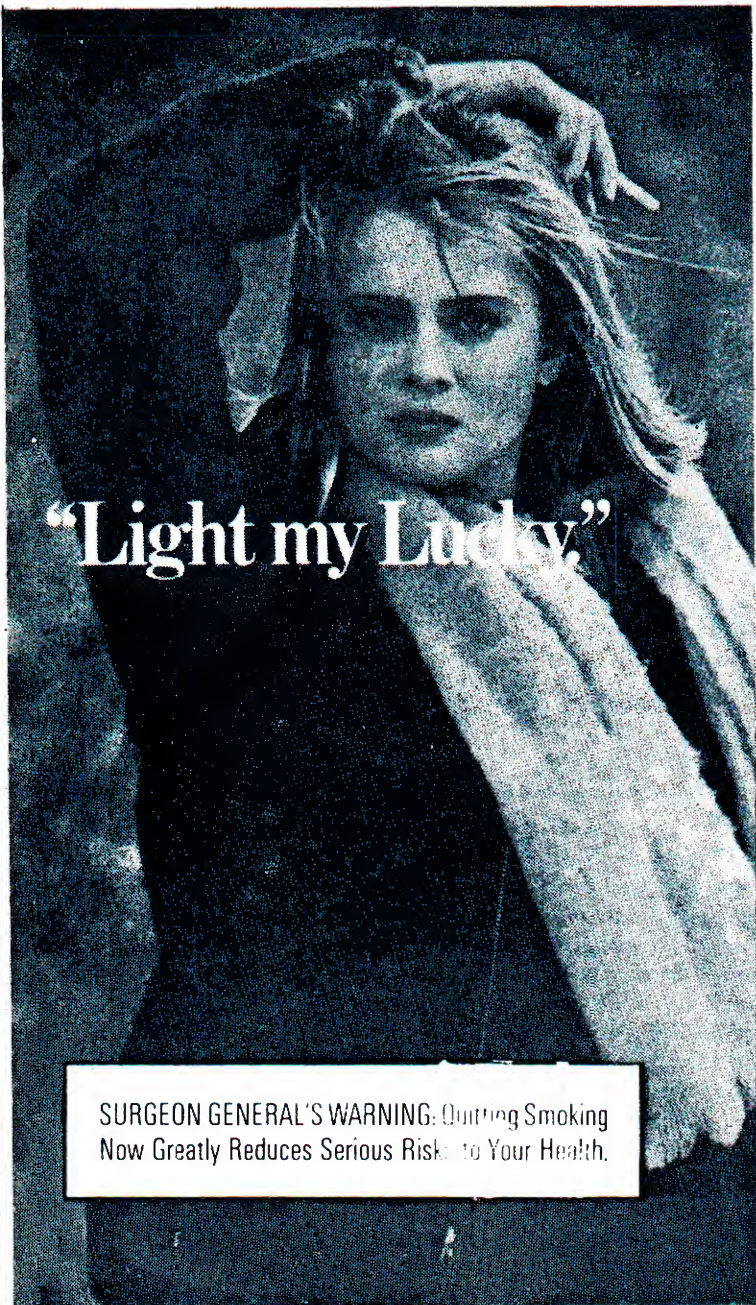
Doyle Owens moved to approve Pot. Resolution86-236 approving a set-aside budget and administrative guidelines for referendum vote in June. Bob Davis seconded; passed 5-0.

Doyle Owens moved to approve Pot. Resolution86-237 authorizing purchase of a tractor and attachments for Fire Lake. Bob Davis seconded; passed 5-0.

Discussion was held on Haskell. John Barrett will arrange meetings in Washington D.C. for tribal member and Haskell teacher Duane Evans. The tribe is endorsing Evan's attempt to be placed on the Haskell Board of Directors and will pay his expenses to Washington.

Kenneth Peltier moved to send a letter to Rep. Tom Daschle endorsing his efforts for a Native American monument at Arlington National Cemetery. Bob Davis seconded; passed 5-0.

Doyle Owens moved to send a letter to the BIA requesting the return of funds to the 93-638 Indian Self-Determination Account. Kenneth Peltier seconded; passed 5-0.



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Bob Davis moved to send a letter to the BIA opposing adoption of a single line item BIA budget. Doyle Owens seconded; passed 5-0.

Kenneth Peltier moved to amend the Potawatomi Law and Order Code as recommended by the tribal attorney to be in compliance with the tribal constitution. Bob Davis seconded; passed 5-0.

Francis Levier moved to send a letter to Quannah Enterprises informing them that the tribe cannot currently economically justify purchase of the old Cherry building. Bob Davis seconded; passed 4-0. Doyle Owens absent.

Bob Davis moved to approve Potawatomi Ordinance 86-127 adopting a tribal bingo ordinance and repealing all previous ordinances that are in conflict. Kenneth Peltier seconded; passed 5-0.

Francis Levier will send a registered mail letter to the Potawatomi Tribe's representative to the Absentee Shawnee Housing Authority voicing our objection to Governor Little Axe's appointment to the Housing Authority Board; appointment of his brother to the inspector's position and the unnecessary hold-up of letting the contract for the elderly housing project to be located on Potawatomi land.

Doyle Owens moved to send a letter to CTSA pointing out that the Citizen Band is still a one-fifth owner of the CTSA complex and that we are never consulted on business decisions. Consequently we intend to begin collecting one-fifth of all rent proceeds, as well as back rent. Consensus was to distribute our proceeds to the Iowa and Kickapoo Tribes. Carbon copies of the letter to CTSA will be sent to the Iowa and Kickapoo tribal chairmen. Kenneth Peltier seconded; passed 5-0.

A letter will be sent to John Greene of the U.S. Attorney's office notifying him of our intentions to utilize history funds previously in conflict and generated by federal programs, for the publication of Father Joseph Murphy's book.

Doyle Owens moved to allocate approximately \$1400 from CTGP to fence the driving range from the highway to the creek. Kenneth Peltier seconded; passed 5-0.

Kenneth Peltier moved to have the tribal attorney send a registered letter to former tribal chairman Leon Bruno requesting him to return cooking equipment, pow wow club gifts and the Don Perrote cultural series videotapes to the tribe. The PIP Club will send Bruno a similar letter. Doyle Owens seconded; passed 5-0.

Doyle Owens moved to approve a \$5000 Tax Commission allocation to be loaned to the Potawatomi Pow Wow Grounds Development Authority to repair electrical and water hook-ups and pow wow benches. Kenneth Peltier seconded; passed 5-0.

Meeting recessed at 10:25 p.m.

Meeting reconvened and adjourned at 10:40 p.m.

## May 22, 1986

Present: John Barrett, Doyle Owens, Kenneth Peltier, Bob Davis, Francis Levier, Tribal Attorney Michael Minnis, Pat Sulcer

Chairman John Barrett called the meeting to order at 10:12 a.m. Business Committee went immediately into Executive Session to discuss pending litigation with the tribal attorney.

Committee reconvened in open session at 11:20 a.m.

Kenneth Peltier moved to approve Pot. Resolution 86-239 authorizing the tribal attorney to pursue all federal court legal action pertinent and necessary in the matter of the Potawatomi Tribe versus Enterprise Management Consultants, Inc. and any parallel cases arising with the Oklahoma Tax Commission or any other agency. Action is being taken against EMCI for their refusal to make lease payments or negotiate a management contract following BIA and Dept. of Interior guidelines. Doyle Owens seconded the motion; passed 5-0.

Bob Davis made a motion to authorize the tribal attorney to speak with the BIA superintendent on issues pertaining to ongoing litigation against tribal officials brought by John Schoemann, et. al. Doyle Owens seconded; passed 5-0.

Doyle Owens moved to give the tribal attorney authorization to request the FBI to reopen the investigation of John Schoemann's purchase of land for a USDA program for the tribe and use of funds paid by USDA. Francis Levier seconded; passed 5-0.

County Commissioner James Cravens was introduced. Discussion with Commissioner Cravens included repairs to Hardesty Road and future plans for Mission Hill Hospital.

Meeting adjourned at 12:55 p.m.

## Networking

### Anderson

Charlotte (Anderson) Spenser, 342 County Road 43, Rosharon, Texas 77583, is searching for members of her family and information on her ancestors, the Charles David Anderson family. Charlotte is the youngest daughter of Charles Henry Anderson.

### Aubbeenaubee

The great-great-great granddaughter of Aubbeenaubee, traced through his daughter Thisbee, is looking for information on his five wives. Information on Thisbee, Thisbee's mother, Tec Chok Koos Nye, Amos Nye or Sarah E. Nye is of special importance. Information from descendants of Trail of Death survivors would also be greatly appreciated.

Write Martha Powell, 3147 Blackford Drive, Tippecanoe, Indiana 46570.

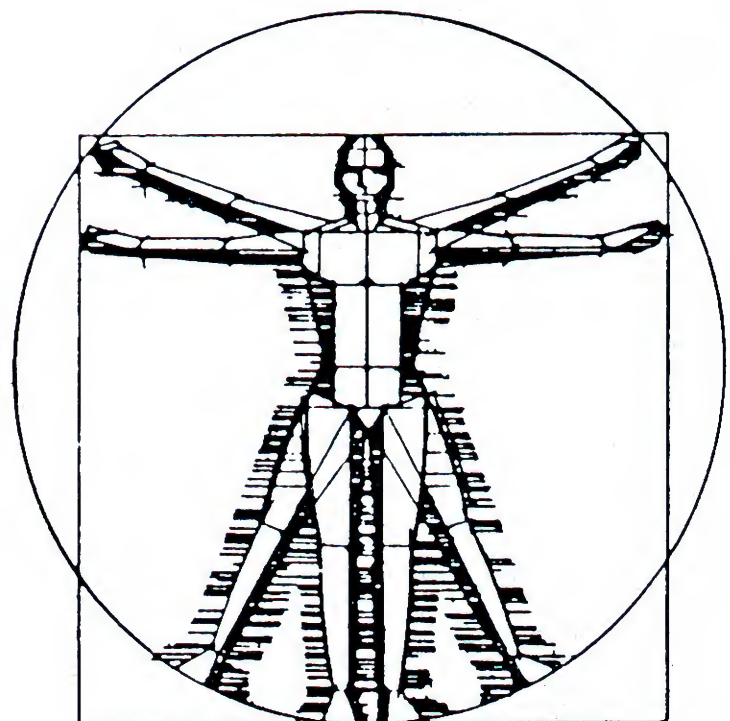
### Melot

Sharon Brinson, of Brownwood, Texas, is searching for information on her great-grandfather, Joseph Melot, who married Katherine Bergeron. According to Ms. Brinson, "There seems to be confusion after Joseph died on the spelling of the name. Some members of the family have adopted another T, making the spelling Melott."

Sharon is the daughter and Floyd Elbert, second son of Thomas Marion Melot. Write to her at 1206 Durham, Brownwood, Tx 76801.

### Crumbo

Donald Crumbo would like to hear from any tribal members who could give him background information and genealogy on the Crumbo family. Write to him at 2432 E. 7th, Tulsa, Oklahoma 74104.



## WELLCARE

Western Heritage Life

**Western Heritage Life will have a service representative in the Citizen Band Potawatomi administrative offices the last Thursday of every month from 10:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Universal Life enrollment will be done during these sessions.**



# In your opinion . . .

## Journalist speaks

Dear Ms. Sulcer,

I enjoy reading the HowNiKan every month. I have seen a great improvement in the quality of the writing and design of the newspaper.

I always look forward to the historical articles about Potawatomi life in the past. The stories have instilled a genuine sense of pride in my people and a motivation to preserve the past for future generations.

As a reporter at The Columbus Dispatch in Columbus, Ohio, I write about many subjects, but especially about educational, ethnic and social issues. I am enclosing a recent article I wrote about a group of Navajo and Hopi Indians who visited Columbus. Just thought you might enjoy reading another Potawatomi's writing.

I received a Master's degree in journalism in August 1984 from Ohio State University in Columbus. Thanks to the (tribal) Scholarship Committee for providing me with financial support to attend graduate school.

Keep up the good work!

Janet Pearl

Columbus, Ohio

(Editor's Note: I greatly enjoyed your article and applaud you on the decision to continue your education. Keep up the good work!)

## The Navajo-Hopi dispute

### Yet Another Open Letter to All Citizen Band Members:

In reply to Margaret Louraine Shemek's letter which appeared in the May, 1986 HowNiKan, I would like to elucidate the following points:

First of all, accusing a person of shoddy background research doesn't make your own position any more valid, especially when your point of view is as myopic as Ms. Shemek's.

In an attempt to put Ms. Shemek's mind to rest, my background research included a thorough reading of Public Law 93-531, House Bill 4281, the Senate Select Committee on Indian Affairs' report on Bill 4281, the Department of the Interior's memoranda from Richard C. Morris to William P. Clark, (Mr. Morris spent time at both the Navajo and Hopi reservations to compile information on behalf of the DOI, Mr. Clark was commissioned by President Reagan to investigate the issue). Further, I've read and re-read numerous entries into the Congressional Record, the books "The Navajo" and "American Indian Almanac", both by John Upton Terrell, "Custer Died For Your Sins," by Vine Deloria, Jr., and letters from Congressional Representative Henry Waxman and Senator Alan Cranston.

Added to that and perhaps most persuasive was the documentary "Broken Rainbow" (which ended up winning the Academy Award this year for Best Documentary).

That film was produced by a dedicated woman named Victoria Mudd. Her personal experience with the Navajo and the Hopi spans over twenty years. Her knowledge includes more on-site close up examination of the problems of these people and their interaction than Ms. Shemek or I combined. It was that film which moved me to try to rally my fellow tribal members to raise their voices in protest against yet another exploitation of the red man by the whites. I urge you all to see it.

On the other hand, to validate her position, Ms. Shemek offers us a newspaper clipping from that world-renowned bastion of journalistic excellence, "The Tucson Citizen." But okay, let's take a look at that:

The article opens with a realistic enough view; an old Navajo woman (Ruth Benally) sitting in her hogan, talking about her ties with the earth. Line after line bespeak her deep feelings for her land, the spirits, the "pure places" - and then: "But the United States Government is going to force Ruth Benally to move elsewhere. She is one of the Navajo traditionalists caught up in the largest forced relocation since Japanese-Americans were interned during World War II."

Clearly, the reporter recognizes the analogy of the Navajo relocation to another travesty for which the U.S. Government is still paying reparations - the illegal and immoral internment of Japanese-Americans in the 1940's.

Then the reporter quotes Mr. Morris of the Department of the Interior:

**"Removal from family lands to strange lands, even though to other Navajo reservation lands, creates a sense of failure accompanied by severe emotional withdrawal. Some who are threatened by relocation conclude that because their lives would serve no further purpose in a strange environment, they would prefer to sacrifice their wasted lives by resisting relocation."**

If that quote doesn't give you a hint of the potential violence, death and injury of our fellow Native Americans, then we're not reading the same English language. Further you're sadly mistaken if you think the young braves of the tribe will stand by and allow their beloved elders to be moved by armed National Guard soldiers (that's right, armed soldiers). The Navajo braves have been off to war and know a thing or two. I wouldn't want to be a paleface weekend soldier around then.

The next point I would like to take up is Ms. Shemek's contention that "This was settled in court..." Whose court? One has to wonder whether she's familiar with the ever more accepted view in the legal community that Native American tribes should be recognized as sovereign nations. I'm sure even she understands

that the U.S. Congress can't pass laws which are binding in Canada, Mexico or any other country. Even the United States Supreme Court is powerless to overturn or modify the most insignificant Canadian or Mexican court decision.

You see, what's going on there in Arizona is the same old soup in a different pot. The government is still hand-in-glove with big business. The difference is in the strategy. They don't just ride in and slaughter them anymore, they turn the tribes against each other. Hopi versus Navajo. What a joke. These people have been intermarrying and cooperating for generation upon generation. As a matter of fact, the inter-relationship of the Hopi and Navajo has been one of peace and cooperation almost unprecedented in Native American history. It was only when the BIA put up a fence between them that disputes of any magnitude arose. As for the encirclement of the Hopi lands by the Navajo reservation, I challenge you to show me one tribe who has been allowed to set their reservation boundaries at will.

I'm not going to try and tell you that everything has been pow wows and weddings. Reading Dave Edmunds' book "The Potawatomis" will educate you quickly on that score. Historically, intertribal conflicts could be bloody and ruthless (see chapter 2). But when such disputes arose, one tribe or the other came out on top. When the government creates, mediates and adjudicates such disputes, both tribes lose. In this case it's the oil-coal-gas-uranium cartels who are really being represented and it's they who win. You know, it's sad; there isn't even a Mohawk Oil company any more.

Yet Ms. Shemek would have us believe that the tribes "will make their own deals" with the oil companies. In principle, I agree. In practice, however, let's take a look at the way things have gone so far: The Navajo are presently represented by a tribal council which has been picked by the BIA. The tribal elders won't have a thing to do with them. (The elders continue to meet in ceremonial hogans, but have been rendered powerless.) The tribal council is considered a virtual joke by the tribe at large. Not a funny joke, however. This tribal council has managed to negotiate contracts for the oil, coal, gas and uranium rights which compensate the tribe between one percent and three percent of the fair market value of those commodities. That's it.

Now let's say the Navajo wanted Black Mesa strip-mined (which they don't), and let's say the Navajo Tribal Council truly represented the Navajo people (which it doesn't). Don't you think ludicrous contracts like that would be reviewed and seriously questioned out here in the "real world"?

Let's all wake up and smell the coffee, kids. When the numbers are in favor of big business, then

suddenly, everyone is all for "our Indian brothers" making their own decisions. When the numbers go against big business, then it's time to move them bums off the land so it can be put to "good" use. Like making money. Damn them injuns for dragging their moccasins, anyway.

Finally, I want to reiterate and clarify a point I tried to make in my original letter to the HowNiKan: let's become familiar with the issue, and fast. The final relocation date is July 6. Let's not have another Wounded Knee.

And by the way, don't take a position based just on what I've said. Use all the information at your disposal. Dig a little. Be sure to view the information dispensed by the media in a historical perspective. A lot of what you hear is company dispensed information, fed to us through the media. Look at the issues with a clear eye. Think beyond the quick buck, the simple solution, the easy way out.

And always remember, the Battle of the Little Big Horn may have been lost by grandfathers on one side of your family, but won by cousins on the other side. That means you, too, Margaret.

Sincerely,

Jeremy Bertrand Finch  
Los Angeles, California

## Grave looters sought

A reward of \$1,000 is being offered by the Ute Tribe for information leading to the arrest and conviction of those responsible for looting Indian graves (in search of valuable beadwork) on the Uintah and Ouray Indian reservation in Utah.

## Get fit for life

Aerobics classes for "beginners" have begun at the Potawatomi tribal complex under the supervision of Joanna Mohler, member of the Aerobic Teachers Association of Oklahoma.

The classes have been scheduled for Tuesdays and Thursdays from 2:30 to 3:30 p.m. in the administration building.

The classes are free and all members of the tribe and their friends are invited to attend at any time.

Aerobic exercise improves physical fitness and helps in weight loss. According to Ms. Mohler, aerobics improve the cardiovascular system and aerobic exercise is recommended for people with diabetes and controlled hypertension. Exercise is a natural way to relieve stress and tension and is conducive to better sleep and rest also.



## In my opinion . . .

I'm always impressed by the fact that the Citizen Band Potawatomi people, no matter where they live, are concerned with Native American issues in their localities. It is a source of pride for the tribe that our people —whether or not they have ever visited their own tribal operation—are willing to act as the voice of conscience in affairs affecting Native Americans in their individual communities.

The Navajo-Hopi land dispute has stirred the interest and willingness to voice an opinion of many Potawatomi tribal members, judging by the mail I receive. Now it is time for me to voice an opinion.

At a recent convention of the Native American Press Association meeting in Scottsdale, Arizona, I was privileged to meet and listen to Mr. Ivan Sidney, chairman of the Hopi Tribe. The representative of the Navajo Nation did not show up—and he did not call to explain why. My personal respect for Mr. Sidney jumped a hundred-fold when he declined to debate reporters on the land dispute “because the Navajo Nation has no one here to speak for them.” Sidney did however, present an overview of the Hopi contentions—and my personal research has backed him up. The land dispute has been caused, in large part, by the federal government (who else?) and manipulative business leaders and politicians. The Hopi were first invaded in 1540, when Francisco de Coronado, in search of the Seven Golden Cities of Cibola, stumbled upon them. During the Spanish and Mexican occupation the Hopi were besieged by outsiders locating on their land—including Navajo relocating from the North. From 1540 until 1823 the Hopi were under Spanish occupation. In 1823 they were claimed by the Mexican government. In 1848, under the Treaty of Guadalupe de Hidalgo, the United States government took jurisdiction of the Hopi, promising to protect them and their lands. But because of the government's lack of action the Navajo virtually took control of the Hopi lands—while the U.S. government was out protecting white settlers. In 1864 the Navajos were relocated to Bosque Redondo, New Mexico where the cost of “keeping them” became so exorbitant that the government agreed to give them a 3.5 million acre reservation in northwestern New Mexico and northeastern Arizona. The Navajo signed a treaty to stay within their new reservation boundaries—and then they broke it.

In 1882, an Executive order set aside 2.5 million acres for the Hopi reservation. But the Navajo disregarded the Hopi boundaries and the U.S. government chose not to enforce its treaty agreements with the Hopi.

Between 1868 and 1934 Executive orders 14 times increased the Navajo reservation which, today, encompasses 16 million acres of land in four states. In 1962 the Navajo won “squatter's rights” in court because the Secretary of Interior had never bothered to

challenge their location on Hopi land.

In 1974 Congress passed legislation in hopes of undoing 100 years of damage. \$85 million dollars was allocated to help relocate the Navajo and they were given 400,000 acres of public land. Thousands of Navajo moved. A few hundred remain. Department of Interior attempts to intervene have proven fruitless and a July deadline for settlement has been set.

**We are fighting for all Indian people. It is our time. We want to tell America what has happened. We want to tell America we want to determine our own fate. We want to ask America to pray for us. —Ivan Sidney**

Now to the real problem. Both the Hopi and Navajo tribes are traditional people. Court decisions, media coverage, the Department of Interior and capitalist concerns are not part of their way of life or their value system. When Ivan Sidney says, “Our land dispute will never end because too many people have found careers in it,” he is not talking about the members of the tribes involved.

According to Sidney, “Our tribal elders put us in the desert to protect us ... and they said ‘you are living on something you can live on a long time. Teach your children to develop what is here.’” I doubt that Hopi elders in the 1500's knew of the wealth of treasure that lay under their reservation. I do not know what the Navajo elders told their people because they chose not to speak to the convention of Indian journalists.

Courts and Administration officials can sit down and draw lines on maps and Congress can hand out money but what about the people? The hardships of the relocated Navajo have been well documented. No group of people has suffered this enormity of indignation and loss of traditional values since Black people were captured in nets on another continent and brought to America to serve the white man—or since the last removal of America's indigenous people from their traditional homelands at the point of government rifles.

The Navajo will suffer. Or the Hopi will continue to suffer. The Hopi have publically stated that Navajo willing to petition the Hopi elders may be allowed to stay on the land. The Navajo have not done it.

The Citizen Band Potawatomi people had a similar experience when they arrived in Oklahoma to find Absentee Shawnee squatters on the land the Potawatomi had paid for. The government refused action for us, too.

It is my personal feeling that the Hopi should be given back the small portion of what was once theirs that they now ask for. It is also my opinion that we, as educated, “mainstreamed” Native Americans, should do all we can to assist the relocated Navajo. I pray there is no bloodshed in July. I pray both tribes are able to overcome the hatreds generated by the land dispute.

—Fat Sulcer

# Native News

## Tribes oppose bill

The Arizona legislature has tabled a state tax-sharing bill that would have affected the Navajo and Hopi Tribes. The bill called for the state to share with the two tribes about \$10 million in taxes collected by the state every year from Peabody Coal Company, which runs a coal mining operation on tribal lands.

Navajo officials told reporters that the plan “is a serious interference” with tribal sovereignty because it infringes on tribal taxation rights. The bill passed the state Senate but was tabled in the House, where a committee to study the issue is expected to be formed.

## Enterprise zone

The Arizona Republic newspaper has editorially called for strong Indian support of a legislative proposal introduced by Rep. John McCain, R-Arizona, to stimulate private economic development on Indian reservations.

The newspaper said an endorsement by the National Tribal Chairmen's Association “is critical if the bill is to have even a fighting chance of survival in a Congress unreceptive to the notion of enterprise zones.” The paper adds, “A potential problem exists with the massive tax-reform legislation currently under consideration in Congress because the proposal adopted by the Senate Finance Committee would eliminate many incentives McCain's bill wants to capitalize on. That should not be an excuse to curtail further hearings, nor should the philosophical objection of Ways and Means Committee Chairman Dan Rostenkowski to the enterprise zone concept.”

## Indian health

The University of Oklahoma's American Indian Institute will sponsor the third of a three-part series, titled “Indian Health Promotion: A Challenge For Change,” September 16 through 18.

The meeting, to be held at the Holiday Inn West in Oklahoma City, will focus on “effecting behavioral change for the individual, community and organization,” according to Billy Rogers, conference coordinator.

For more information on the conference contact Rogers at (405) 325-1711. Presenters are also being sought for the conference. Persons wishing to make a presentation on Indian Health issues should contact Rogers at the above phone number.

## Where are you?

Did you know that the Citizen Band Potawatomi Tribe has less than 1,025 members under the age of 25? Approximately 7,527 tribal members fall between the ages of 25 and 50—379 of whom live in Shawnee, Oklahoma. The total number of members in Pottawatomie County in the 25-50 age group is 520. **We hope to see you all at the General Council and pow wow on June 28!**

## Legislation

A law to protect Indian children against certain forms of sexual molestation was signed by President Reagan on May 15.

The new law, Public Law 99-303, fills a gap that has existed in the Major Crimes Act with regard to serious sexual conduct directed at children in Indian Country.

According to Senator Jeremiah Denton, existing laws prior to the May 15 signing, did not cover adult sexual contact with male or female children other than rape, involuntary sodomy and carnal knowledge. “Amendment of the Major Crimes Act,” according to Denton, “is necessary to permit effective enforcement, since without the amendment these serious offenses which nearly all states treat as felonies, are prosecutable only in a tribal court, which may administer a maximum punishment of up to only six months imprisonment and/or a fine of \$500.”

The new law permits state law and accompanying penalties to be used in federal courts to prosecute Indians as well as non-Indian sexual molesters of children in Indian Country.

## Sneaky Council!

Indian Country, an independent publication printed on the Sac and Fox Indian Settlement near Tama, Iowa, recently ran the headline “Sneaky, Sneaky Tribal Council.” The story that followed read in part, “There was a Tribal Council meeting Saturday, May 10, 1986. We missed it. There was another Tribal Council meeting Sunday, May 11, 1986. We missed it too. In a sneaky move to keep the people of the Settlement uninformed, the Tribal Council met without letting the people know there was a meeting. We asked executive director Arthur Blackcloud, Jr., why no one was called or allowed to attend the meetings. He said ‘I am not obligated to let anyone know when the tribal council meets. I only do what they tell me.’ We have no idea what they did. Nor will the people.”



POTAWATOMI INTERTRIBAL POW-WOW CLUB

13TH ANNUAL POW-WOW

JUNE 27, 28, AND 29, 1986

SHAWNEE, OKLAHOMA

(OFF HWY. 177 SOUTH TO HARDESTY ROAD - 1/2 EAST TO BEARD STREET - 1/2 MILE SOUTH)

POW-WOW STAFF

MASTER OF CEREMONIES

Robert Fields

HEAD WAR DANCE SINGER

Lawrence Wahpepah

HEAD GOURD DANCE SINGER

Tim Martinez

HEAD MAN DANCER

Henry Hunter

HEAD LADY DANCER

Cathy Hunter

POTAWATOMI INTERTRIBAL POW-WOW  
CLUB PRINCESS & POTAWATOMI  
TRIBAL PRINCESS

Ginger Lashelle Pawpa

HEAD LITTLE BOY DANCER

Joseph Blanchard

HEAD LITTLE GIRL DANCER

Martina Lonelodge

HEAD GOURD DANCER

Thomas White, Sr.

CO-HOST

Pending

ARENA DIRECTORS

Ira Birdcreek

Lee Larney

CONTEST COORDINATORS

Lawrence Murray

Glenn Murdock

CONTESTS

\* \* \* \*

PRIZE MONEY

\* \* \* \* \*



CONTESTS FOR ALL AGES AND  
CATEGORIES

\* \* \* \*

PRIZE MONEY - \$3,225.00

\* \* \* \*

ALL CONTESTANTS MUST BE IN  
THE PARADE IN!

PROGRAM

FRIDAY, June 27, 1986

Campground Open.....1:00 p.m.  
Registration of Contestants  
Gourd Dancing.....5:00 p.m.  
PARADE IN (All Contestants)...7:00 p.m.  
Flag Song, Invocation, Recognition of  
Head Staff, Round Dancing, Tiny Tots  
Contest, Jr. Girls Contest, War Danc-  
ing, Closing Songs

ALL SPECIALS WILL BE FROM 1:00 P.M.  
TO 8:00 P.M. ON FRIDAY & SATURDAY  
ONLY.

SUNDAY, June 29, 1986

Noon Service by Father Vincent Traynor, O.S.B.....12 Noon  
Gourd Dancing.....1:00 p.m.-2:30  
PARADE IN (All Contestants).....2:30  
Flag Song, Invocation, Recognition of Head Staff, Round Dancing, War Dancing,  
Women's Buckskin Dress Contest, Northern Traditional War Dance Contest  
PARADE IN (All Contestants).....6:30  
Flag Song, Invocation, Round Dancing, War Dancing, Men's Straight Dance Contest,  
Men's Fancy Dance Contest  
ANNOUNCE CONTEST WINNERS - AWARD PRIZES  
Closing Songs  
Benediction by Tribal & PIP Club Chaplain Father Vincent Traynor, O.S.B.

SATURDAY, June 28, 1986

Gourd Dancing.....1:00 p.m.-2:00  
Registration Ends.....2:00  
PARADE IN (All Contestants)...2:00  
Flag Song, Invocation, Recognition  
Head Staff, War Dancing, Jr. Boys C  
test  
SUPPER.....5:00  
PARADE IN (All Contestants)...7:00  
Flag Song, Invocation, Round Dancin  
Women's Cloth Contest, Women's Nort  
Shawl Contest, Closing Songs

- GOOD FOOD!
- GOOD DANCING!
- GOOD SECURITY!

PLENTY OF HOOK-UPS FOR RV's  
\$7.50 per day (Large)  
\$3.50 per day (Small)

GREAT HOSPITALITY

- GOOD GROUND
- GOOD SINGING
- GOOD FRIENDS!

ADMITTANCE FREE TO THE PUBLIC

\* \* \* \* \*

SECURITY WILL BE PROVIDED

POTAWATOMI INTERTRIBAL POW-WOW CLUB WILL NOT BE RESPONSIBLE FOR ANY ACCIDENT